# Safety FLASH

US Army Corps of Engineers ®

## FLAGGING

Flagger stopping traffic

Flagger motioning traffic to proceed

Flagger slowing traffic

### Flagging

Flagging is a very important and demanding job. Flaggers protect workers and the traveling public. It is unfortunate and sometimes disastrous that too often flagging is assigned to unmotivated or untrained people. Supervisors may assume that everyone knows how to flag when, in fact, workers need to be trained to be effective flaggers.

Flaggers need the proper attitude, the proper equipment; and proper training.
Proper attitude includes being: Alert Motivated Committed

To maintain attention level and alertness, it is important to relieve flaggers regularly.

**Equipment should include:**

Stop-slow paddle (preferred) or red flag ( in emergency situations) or red Stop/Slow flag

High visibility Retroreflective vest or jacket.

Suitable clothes/footwear

Two-way radio to communicate between flaggers if hand signals will not work

Hard hat

"FLAGGER AHEAD" sign and other work zone traffic control devices

**Proper Training**

The first rule of flagging is do not stand in the travel lane! The proper place to stand in order to stop traffic is at the right shoulder of the road. That way, if the driver doesn't see the signal to stop or slow down, the flagger won't get hit. Flaggers should always have an escape route. It is preferable for drivers to hit traffic cones and stop in the buffer area than to hit the flagger. Make sure that the sight distance is long enough to allow drivers time to see and react (500 feet on faster roads, 200 feet in slower areas).

It is important to train all flaggers to adhere to standard signals. Non-standard actions will confuse drivers.

**To Stop Traffic:**

Stand on the edge of the road facing traffic

Hold up your left hand palm outward, like a Police Officer

Hold the paddle out away from your body, the STOP side toward traffic

If you are using a flag, hold it out horizontally. Do not wave the flag! It confuses drivers.

Make eye contact with the driver

If necessary, after the first car has stopped you may go to the center of the road to stop succeeding cars.

If two flaggers are working, use a two-way radio or hand signal to tell the other flagger that your traffic is stopped. Do not use the flag to signal.

**To Release Traffic:**

After receiving the signal from the other flagger, step back to the shoulder of the road, turn your paddle to SLOW.

With your free hand, motion traffic to proceed.

Do not wave the flag! It confuses drivers.

**To make sure drivers see your flagger, remember these tips. Flaggers should...**

Be dressed appropriately

Wear a clean, regulation vest

Stand alone, away from other people

Face traffic and make eye contact with drivers

Be alert and pay attention

**Make sure that flaggers have a good escape route in case a driver fails**



Be Safe, Share The Ways!

US Army Corps of Engineers ®

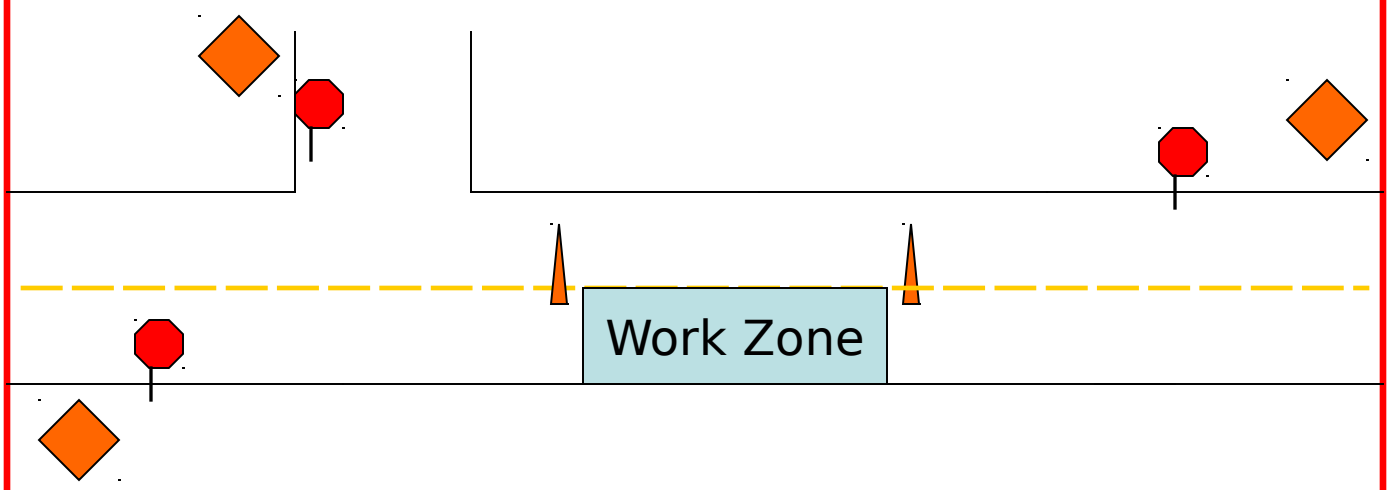
# Safety FLASH

TRAFFIC SIGNAGE

RESIDENTIAL ROADS

30 MPH OR LESS

## TRAFFIC SIGNAGE FOR RESIDENTIAL ROADS AT 30 MPH OR LESS




**Warning Signs**

**Flagger**

**Traffic cones**

Flaggers shall be stationed at least
20 feet from each end of the work
zone and at least 10 feet from the warning sign.
In addition, flaggers shall be stationed at each intersecting road within the work area.
All work and equipment must be performed in between the flaggers.
Spotters shall be employed for all
Equipment used in residential



Be Safe, Share The Ways!

US Army Corps of Engineers ®

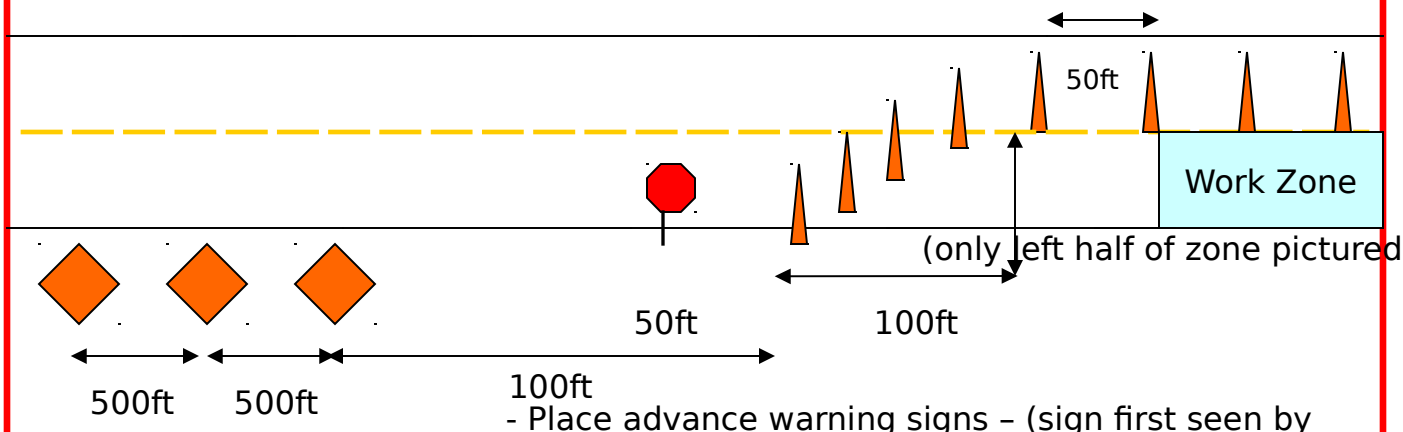
# Safety FLASH

## TRAFFIC SIGNAGE

## 2-LANE ROADS

## 55 MPH SPEED LIMIT

### TRAFFIC SIGNAGE FOR 2-LANE ROADS AT 55 MPH




When traffic visibility is impaired by curves, hills or other, signs should be placed in advance of impairment and flagger shall be visible at all times by on-coming traffic.

**Warning Signs**

**Flagger**

**Traffic cones**

- Place advance warning signs – (sign first seen by motorist);
- Place secondary advanced warning sign followed by "flagger ahead" sign or symbol;
- Place traffic cones (min. 28-30") or barrels. Cones are used to channelize traffic – a 100' taper with cones placed at 25' intervals. Cones bordering work area shall be at 50' intervals (max.);
- Then place flaggers - stationed at least 100 feet from each end of the work zone and 100 feet from the warning sign. In addition, flaggers shall be stationed at each intersecting road within the work area.

-At no time shall equipment pass beyond the flaggers.

-***Flaggers shall be stationed on the shoulder of the road until the first vehicle has been stopped***.

- Equipment may then be moved into position following placement of traffic control devices.
- Flaggers must be in site of each other or use 2-way comm.;
- Sign spacing is based on 55-MPH; distance between signs is based on speed limit – lesser speeds = lesser distance between signs.



Be Safe, Three The Ways!

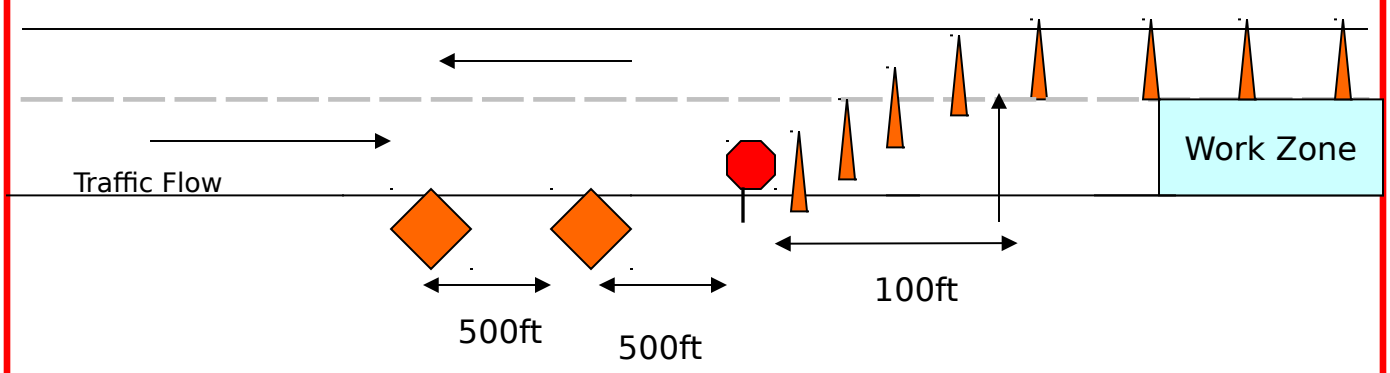
US Army Corps of Engineers ®

# Safety FLASH

## Signage for Typical Operation

Two-way Two-land Rural
Short Time Operations
(60 minutes or less)

### TRAFFIC SIGNAGE FOR TYPICAL OPERATION




Where road is marked by painted lines;
Flaggers in site of each other or 2-way communication;
When traffic visibility is impaired (curves, steep hills, etc), signs shall be placed in advance of impairments and flagger placed where visible by on-coming traffic;
All work and equipment must be between the flaggers cones.
***Flagger shall be stationed on the shoulder of the road until the 1st car has been stopped***.
Cones shall be employed to cordon off work zone from traffic.

**Warning Signs**

**Flagger**

**Traffic cones**



Be Safe, Share The Ways!